

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/821,059

Examiner

Zachary M. Pape

Applicant(s)

HAMADA ET AL.

Art Unit

2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/26/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13, 15-18, 23-25.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 08 April 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


LYNN FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The following office action is in response to the previous correspondence mailed 4/26/2005.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-13, 15-18, 23-25 are allowed.

The allowability resides in the overall structure of the device as recited in independent claims 1, and 7 and at least in part because claims 1, and 7 recite, "when a part of the lock mechanism is pressed in a direction from the cover toward the lock mechanism through the operation portion".

Further the allowability resides in the overall structure of the device as recited in independent claim 23 and at least in part because claim 23 recites, "the press portion is pressed in a direction from the cover toward the lock mechanism through the hole".

The aforementioned limitations in combination with all remaining limitations of claims 1, 7, and 23 are believed to render said claims 1, 7, and 23 and all claims dependent therefrom patentable over the art of record.

The closest references to the present invention are believed to be Nobuchi et al. (US 6,125,040), Nakajima et al (US 5,808,861), and Bosy (6,394,300). With respect to claim 1, Nobuchi et al. teaches the use of an electronic apparatus, comprising, a housing (2), a cover (4) detachably supported on the housing (Via hinges 6, the cover, if desired by the user, could be detached from the housing), a lock mechanism (Comprising 48, 50, 54, 34) which is covered with the cover (As illustrated in fig 5a, the

cover 4a covers the mechanism) and which locks the cover to the housing (As illustrated in fig 5a), and an operation portion (36) which allows access to the lock mechanism from the outside of the housing and the cover (As illustrated in fig 2), in order to unlock the cover from the housing. While Nobuchi et al. does teach that the operation portion is slid along the cover to operate the lock mechanism (and ultimately release the cover from the housing), Nobuchi et al. fails to teach that the lock mechanism is pressed in a direction from the cover toward the lock mechanism through the operation portion.

With respect to claim 7, Nakajima et al. in view of Bosy meet the claim limitations of claim 7 as set forth in the previous office action, but as noted by the applicant, the cover is not released when the lock mechanism of Bosy (40) is pressed in a direction from the cover (Near 34) toward the lock mechanism (36) through the operation portion (34).

With respect to claim 23, Nobuchi et al. teaches an electronic apparatus, comprising, a housing (2), a cover (4) detachably supported on the housing (Via hinges 6, the cover, if desired by the user, could be detached from the housing), the cover including a hole (16a), and a lock mechanism (Comprising 48, 50, 54, 34) attached to an inner surface of the cover (4), the lock mechanism locking the cover to the housing at an engagement position (As illustrated in Fig 5a), the lock mechanism including a press portion (36) at a position corresponding to the hole of the cover. Nobuchi et al. fails to teach that the press portion is pressed in a direction from the cover (4) to toward the lock mechanism (Comprising 48, 50, 54, 34).

Response to Arguments

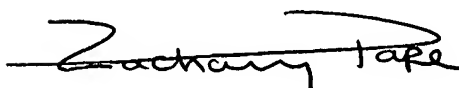
The arguments filed 4/26/2005 by the applicant are moot in view of amended claims 1, 7, and 23 being allowable over the current prior art of record.

Conclusion

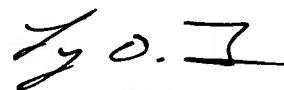
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zachary M. Pape whose telephone number is 571-272-2201. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thur. & every other Fri. (8:00am - 5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached at 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



ZMP



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